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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Ryuji Ishiguro et al.  
Serial No. : Continuation of Serial No. 08/721,310  
For : ENCRYPTING METHOD AND APPARATUS,  
RECORDING METHOD, DECRYPTING  
METHOD AND APPARATUS, AND RECORDING  
MEDIUM  
Filed : Herewith  
Examiner : P. M. Laufer  
Art Unit : 2766

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Date of Deposit: April 7, 1999

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Charles Jones  
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Charles Jones  
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to issuance of the first Office Action in the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows:

664040-42648260